

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
***Early On*® Michigan**
(Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
Michigan Department of Education (MDE)
State Board of Education Room, 4th Floor
Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Minutes

Members Present: Clare Brick, Susan Broman, Deb Canja, Barbara Corbin, Anne Dallaire, Kristina Donaldson, Sheri Falvay, Judy Goth-Owens, Chandra Jones, Nolana Nobles Bandy, Stephanie Peters, Conny Raaymakers, Nicole Sodergren, Sondra Stegenga

Alternates Present: Kristen Carmany, Reneé DeMars-Johnson, Melissa Epstein, Pamela Kies-Lowe, Barb Russell

Staff Present: Laura Goldthwait, Rachel Harmon, Kelly Hurshe, Tiffany Kostelec, Colleen O'Connor, Nancy Peeler, Barb Schinderle, Vanessa Winborne

Grantees Present: *Early On* Training and Technical Assistance:
Christy Callahan, Victoria Meeder, and
Nancy Surbrook

Wayne State University (Evaluation Project):
Charo Hulleza and Luna Xuan

Guests: Mina Hong, Michigan's Children

Call to Order: Chairperson Nicole Sodergren called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Introductions: Introductions were made and everyone was welcomed.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Deb Canja and supported by Stephanie Peters to approve the minutes.

Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Barb Russell and supported by Sondra Stegenga to approve the agenda.

Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

MICC Updates:

Annual Performance Report (APR)

The APR was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on February 1, 2015.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

The SSIP Committee has met monthly and will continue to do so until March 2015. Currently, the committee has worked on data analysis, infrastructure analysis, developed the SiMR, participated in a Root Cause Analysis, developed broad improvement strategies and is finalizing the theory of action. The SSIP draft was submitted to OSEP for a preliminary review and feedback was positive. Phase I is due to OSEP on April 1, 2015. All information regarding the SSIP can be found at www.michigan.gov/ssip.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 Application

MDE requests public comment on the proposed Michigan Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (aka *Early On*) FFY 2015 application. The period of public participation extends from February 9, 2015, through April 10, 2015, with public comment accepted only March 7, 2015 through 5 p.m., April 6, 2015. Click on the following link for the FFY 2015 application and public comment instructions: [Part C Notice of Public Comment](#).

Feeding Ad Hoc Committee

The Committee met in January and is developing a document that will be guidance for the field around the role of *Early On* for infants and toddlers with feeding difficulties. They have worked with Grand Valley State University on two research projects and the data will contribute to the recommendations in the document. The plan is to present the document to the MICC in May for approval.

Essentials of *Early On*

The Essentials of *Early On* are online training modules developed to support personnel working with infants and toddlers with disabilities. The Essentials of *Early On* consists of five online training modules and five corresponding competency quizzes. The five modules include:

- *Early On* 101
- IFSP Process
- Procedural Safeguards
- Facilitating Smooth and Effective Transitions
- Foundations for Early Intervention

The modules and competency quizzes will be available on the *Early On* Training and Technical Assistance (EOT&TA) website www.eotta.ccrea.org beginning February 27, 2015. Five State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) for the Essentials of *Early On* are available for those interested. Registration is free, and one must be a registered subscriber of the EOT&TA website to take the trainings.

Early On Conference

The *Early On* Conference will be held November 10-12, 2015 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. The pre-conference full day session will take place on November 10, followed by the conference on November 11 and 12.

Michigan Alliance for Families- Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) Letter of Support:

The Michigan Alliance for Families applied for the PTI grant and asked the MICC for a letter of support. Since the timeline was tight, a letter was drafted and approved by the Executive Committee. The letter was included in the electronic packet sent to MICC members. The Executive Committee asked the MICC to approve their actions taken on January 30, 2015 to write a letter of support for The Michigan Alliance for Families- PTI.

A motion was made by Anne Dallaire and supported by Stephanie Peters to accept the actions taken by the Executive Committee to support MAF-PTI. Motion passed.

Formation of Ad Hoc Committee to Revise the Bylaws:

An Executive Order was created by Governor Snyder to combine the Department of Human Services and the Department of Community Health. The new agency is called the Department of Health and Human Services. Within the Executive Order, the MICC Director Designees from the previous agencies are affected. The Executive Order states:

VIII. INTERAGENCY COODINATING COUNCIL FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The membership of the Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Developmental Disabilities, defined by Section II. D. of Executive Order 2007-43, is amended to substitute the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services for the Director of the Department of Human Services and the Executive Director of the Michigan Children's Services Agency for the Director of the Department of Community Health.

The MICC bylaws have not been reviewed in a few years and with the new Executive Order the ad hoc committee will do a thorough review of the bylaws. The ad hoc will also review the MICC and *Early On* vision statements.

A motion was made by Anne Dallaire and supported by Judy Goth-Owens to form a bylaw ad hoc committee and also to review the vision statements. Motion carried.

The new Executive Order will be effective April 10, 2015. A sign up sheet went around the room for members to join, and a meeting will be in the near future.

Early On Funding Update:

Vanessa Winborne shared that MDE has been looking at ways to improve funding for *Early On*. The Auditor General's report recommended that additional funding was needed. The Financial Support Ad Hoc Committee recommended developing a plan to obtain state funding and Michigan's Children arranged a meeting with the Lt. Governor to discuss the matter.

The Governor's budget was released for the upcoming year and *Early On* funding was not part of it. Efforts to obtain state funding will continue through the *Early On* Foundation. This group will work with other advocacy organizations in Michigan to develop a unified message about *Early On* and a plan.

The Council offered additional suggestions such as:

- Connect with the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA) and the school board association.
- Tie early identification of lead poisoning with the benefits of *Early On*, since it is an established condition and connect it to research showing reducing lead exposure leads to a drop in violent crime. It can also be tied to third grade reading. The MICC is interested in a presentation from MDCH about lead exposure and what it means for infants and toddlers who are exposed to lead.
- The Junior League meets at the Capital in March and this group could be another avenue for support.

The *Early On* Foundation is meeting with a group of advocates and technical assistance specialists on March 10, 2015. The Council will be informed of next steps that develop from the meeting.

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC):

The PIC is developing a Celena L. Barnes Family Leadership Inspiration Award to be presented every other year at the *Early On* Conference. The award will be given to a parent who has a child age birth to 13, past or present in *Early On*, who has made a difference through her/his passion, leadership, and encouragement for other children or families in the state of Michigan.

Nomination forms will be sent out in early April and the PIC, along with Mr. Barnes, will select the recipient during the summer.

Outreach and distribution will be wide and will include at a minimum:

- *Early On* Coordinators
- LICC/MICC
- Parent Action Committees (PAC)
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Michigan Alliance for Families
- Parent Leadership in State Government

The recipient will be notified by September 8 and will be invited to attend the *Early On* Conference in Traverse City.

The PIC, EOT&TA, and MDE are working out a budget to determine the costs of inviting the parent and some of Celena's family to attend the conference to receive the award.

Celena's family is honored and happy that the PIC has developed this award to honor her. Mr. Barnes is looking forward to being included in the selection of the recipient and the presentation of the award.

Essentials of *Early On*:

Kelly Hurshe and Nancy Surbrook shared information about the upcoming personnel development webinar series titled "The Essentials of *Early On*." The purpose of the webinar training is to support basic core knowledge and understanding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C Rules and Regulations, Michigan State Plan, and policy issues as related to *Early On* in Michigan. Furthermore, it includes evidence-based practices related to home visiting, child development, and family-centered practices.

The five modules include:

- *Early On* 101
- IFSP Process
- Procedural Safeguards
- Facilitating Smooth and Effective Transitions
- Foundations for Early Intervention

A Frequently Asked Questions document was shared as well as the Personnel Standards document.

Nancy walked through a live demonstration showing Council members how to use the modules. Suggestions were offered such as including the length of time for each presentation. The webinars are available beginning February 27, 2015.

The quizzes at the end of each module need to be passed with 80 percent or higher. The webinars are free and five State Continuing Education Clock Hours are available when the modules are complete.

Public Comment: Christy Callahan brought current grantee reports and distributed them.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Stephanie Peters.

Motion carried.